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NOTE: To view Congressman Carnahan speaking on the House floor regarding the future of the Fenton, Mo. Chrysler Plants [click here](#) . Also, a letter from Carnahan, Clay and Costello to Steve Rattner of the Auto Industry Task Force is attached.

Bipartisan Bi-State Delegation Focus on Keeping Jobs in Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois

(Washington, DC) - Today, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) joined by Representatives Wm. Lacy Clay, Todd Akin, Jerry Costello, John Shimkus met to strategize over the future of Fenton, Missouri's two Chrysler plants, which have been speculated to fully close within the next year. Currently Chrysler's facility in Fenton produces a minivan, employing thousands in the St. Louis bi-state region including eastern Missouri and southern Illinois.

Auto industry analyst Haig Stoddard has said that the Fenton plant is one of the most vulnerable plants in terms of remaining in operation as Chrysler works on its viability plan for the future.

"I have heard from numerous constituents who either work at the Fenton plant or whose work will be indirectly impacted by its closure," said Carnahan. "I hope the Fenton plant is part of Chrysler's plan to meet the needs of the 21

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century auto industry."

Both direct and indirect jobs would be lost due to the plant closing and because of expected layoffs at companies that provide parts and services to Chrysler's Fenton plant. This all comes at a time of deep financial uncertainty and high unemployment rates throughout the region.

"Chrysler has a long and proud history of producing automobiles, trucks, and vans in Fenton, Missouri, employing approximately 5,000 people," said Congressman Carnahan. **"The men and women at the Fenton facilities helped Chrysler survive its darkest hours in the early 1980's, and continued to build the highest quality cars and trucks that contributed to the growth of the 1990's and early 2000's."**

Congressman Carnahan has been actively involved in facilitating discussion between the state of Missouri and Chrysler to ensure the Fenton plant is part of Chrysler's plan to meet the future needs of the auto industry. He has met personally with Chrysler representatives, the President's Auto Industry Task Force, and both local and national United Auto Worker leaders making the case for the plants' future.

In late 2008, the federal government stepped in with loan guarantees designed to help automobile manufacturers face the challenges of the current economic recession and retain the millions of jobs that are dependent on the domestic manufacturing capacity of the "Big Three" automakers and their suppliers.

"My constituents do not want their hard-earned taxpayer dollars going toward investment in foreign jobs," said Carnahan. **"If the auto industry wants the help of the American taxpayer they should close plants abroad, not here at home."**

In 2006, a \$500 million investment, through taxation, credits, and state and local communities outlays was made in the Fenton area to keep Chrysler's plant in Fenton viable for the long-term. As a result of this investment, the Fenton plant allows for flexible manufacturing so that multiple vehicles can be assembled on the same assembly line. Additionally, the workers at the Fenton plant have been rated among most productive.

In 2007, the body shop was also redesigned and 900 state-of-the-art robots were installed. With these and other upgrades the facility has the most advanced production capability in the Chrysler system.

"The Chrysler Fenton facility with its state of the art manufacturing capabilities as well as its productive workforce would be a vital part of Chrysler's plan to meet the needs of the 21st century auto industry, to transition to next generation vehicles and grow the industry to not only survive but thrive," said Congressman Carnahan.

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